

# Great Lakes Piping Plover Call

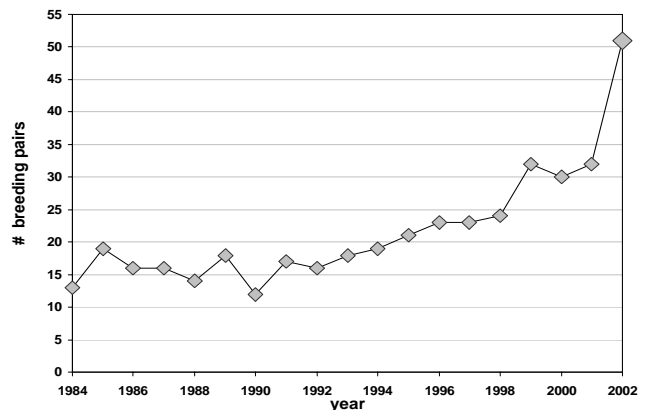
October 2002 vol. 3:1

Piping Plovers returned in record numbers to the Great Lakes this year, reaching an all-time population high of 51 breeding pairs since the 1970s; an increase of 59% from 2001! Unfortunately, bad weather and predators reduced a bumper crop of chicks to 61 fledglings, or 1.2 fledglings per pair. But, there have been worse years and fewer chicks fledged. We predict this year's fledglings will move the Great Lakes Piping Plovers another step closer toward recovery.

## Summary of 2002 nestings:

	# pairs	# fledged
<b>Michigan, lower peninsula</b>		
Ludington State Park	1	4
Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, mainland	6	16
North Manitou	7	2
Christmas Cove and Cathead Bay	1	0
Cross Village and Bliss townships	7	11
Wilderness State Park	16	22
High and Beaver Islands	4	0
Alpena	1	2
Tawas State Park	1	0
<b>Michigan, upper peninsula</b>		
Pointe Aux Chenes	3	3
Port Inland	1	0
Grand Marais	1	0
Vermilion	1	1
<b>Wisconsin</b>		
Apostle Islands	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>61</b>

## A growing Great Lakes Piping Plover population!



## Volunteers and Piping Plovers

Home owner, wildlife watcher, vacationer, veterinarian, zoo keeper, retiree, beach bum,

concerned citizen; these are some of the many people who have volunteered their time to help recover the endangered Piping Plover in the Great Lakes. Volunteers are vital for Michigan DNR's Piping Plover Patrol, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and monitors with the University of Minnesota's Piping Plover Research group at University of Michigan Biological Station. The volunteers fill an important role as eyes and ears of monitors and researchers protecting nesting birds and their habitat. They also pass the word to beach goers on what is being done to save this species. In 2002, people volunteered 3,007 hours! Reaching this population milestone would not have been possible without the efforts of many dedicated monitors and volunteers who kept a watchful eye on these pairs. Thank you for your hours and weeks of hard work.

### Calling new members!

Are you interested in helping out Great Lakes Piping Plovers in a new way? Exploration is underway to form a new organization, *Friends of Piping Plover in Michigan*. If you are interested in membership or participating in any capacity, please contact:

Richard Harder  
3765 Arborway Drive  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Questions comments about the Great Lakes Piping Plover Call? Contact

Jennifer Stucker  
Great Lakes Piping Plover Research and Recovery  
Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, Saint Paul, MN 55108-6124  
612-624-1202 jkh@fw.umn.edu